

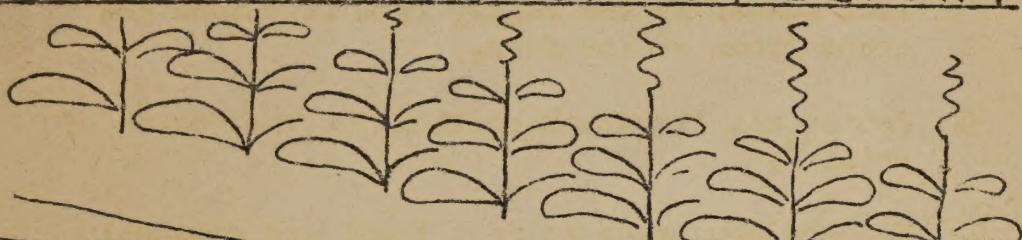
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U.S. Farm security administration.

✓
PUT YOUR IRRIGATION WATER

Behind the

FOOD FOR FREEDOM PROGRAM



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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Do you know that from 20% to 80% of all irrigation water applied to crop land is wasted?

Do you know that additional irrigation water is lost before it reaches the crop land?

Do you know that failure to produce sufficient food and fiber can prolong or even lose the war?

Do you know that transportation is rapidly becoming a serious bottleneck in our all-out war effort and that agriculture can materially relieve this condition?

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Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard says:
"Food will win the war and write the peace."

Every farmer can help in our Food for Freedom program in one or more of the following ways:

1. Produce an adequate family garden.
2. Produce the meat, milk, eggs, poultry, cheese, etc. needed by the family from livestock and crops grown on the farm.
3. Fatten all livestock possible at the "point of origin".
4. Produce new crops to meet local and national demands.

One or all of these programs will contribute to a better living for the family; greater food production throughout the nation; and will eliminate needless hauling of food products from other areas for local consumption, thus releasing transport facilities urgently needed for moving war supplies.

Farmers on irrigated land can further contribute to the Food for Freedom program by putting to work the 20% to 30% of the water that is now wasted as well as saving a larger portion of the water now lost by ditch seepage before it even reaches the land.

Individual and group action is necessary and farmers themselves should take the lead.

Here are some physical evidences of water wasted or inadequately utilized in irrigation with suggestions for reducing these losses. If you see wastes on your farm, correct them. If you see them in the neighborhood generally, get your neighbors together and correct them.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Application of large irrigation stream on steep or light soils causes unnecessary erosion and a large run off of so called "waste water".

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Reorganize your irrigation practices to secure an efficient irrigation stream for the type of soil to be irrigated.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Land with long irrigation runs where very uneven distribution of water occurs, Lands well soaked near the head and poorly watered at the lower end.

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Relocate your distribution system so that water can be applied more evenly over the entire surface. Shorten the length of the field to be irrigated.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Drying and wilting of crops between irrigations.

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Plan your water delivery or time between water turns so that water is available, in an efficient stream, at the times it is needed by the crops.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Waste and inadequate use of small irrigation streams in the later part of the irrigation season.

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Collect the supply in small easily-built, storage reservoirs to be released in an efficient irrigation stream. Combine one or more irrigation streams to provide a stream that is efficient, then shorten the time of use or length of water turn so that the water will rotate to meet the crop needs.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Waterlogging of irrigated lands.

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Waterlogging is caused primarily by continued wasting of the 20% to 80% of the total supply actually applied to the land but not used by the plants on the land. Furnish the plants with the water they need, in the minimum amount needed, at the proper time and waterlogging in many areas will be eliminated.

Evidence of misuse of water:

Lack of crops in areas climatically favorable for their growth.

Suggestion to correct misuse:

Areas having a supply of water throughout the growing season, even though very limited, can produce new crops not previously thought possible, by proper reorganization of irrigation practices; properly planned distribution systems; regulation of time between irrigations or water turns; and storage and utilization of the small late-season supplies generally found in these areas where otherwise adaptable crops have not been grown previously.

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County Supervisors of the Farm Security Administration and personnel of other agencies of the Department of Agriculture are anxious to help all farmers make their maximum contribution to our Food for Freedom Program. If you recognize that you or your neighbors are not receiving maximum yields from your water supplies, act now; if you need help, call on your nearest county FSA Supervisor or County Agent for assistance.

Let's put our irrigation water to better use now to win the war and to make a better world possible after the war is won.